

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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P R 190039Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9123
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 0159

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, XF
SUBJECT: YOUNG/HERZOG CONVERSATION, JANUARY 18

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI AMBASSADOR HERZOG, AT HIS REQUEST, CALLED ON AMBASSADOR YOUNG JANUARY 18 IN TOUR D'HORIZON EXCHANGE. TOPICS COVERED IN DETAIL WERE THE PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S LATEST ACTIVITIES, JERUSALEM TALKS, AND SOUTHERN AFRICA. END SUMMARY.

2. PERMREP OF ISRAEL HERZOG WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ISRAEL OPENED CONVERSATION BY SUGGESTING U.S. WEIGH IN WITH PALESTINIAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN FALL (SENEGAL). HERZOG NOTED COMMITTEE SENT LETTER TO PLO EARLIER IN THE MONTH AND WAS PREPARING MORE LETTERS TO WALDHEIM AND PRESIDENT OF SECURITY COUNCIL AS WELL AS TO CO-CHAIRMAN OF GENEVA CONFERENCE. FALL IS ON COURSE OF SELF-AGGRANDIZEMENT; COMMITTEE, WHICH IS PLO DOMINATED, IS A NUISANCE AND DANGEROUS. IT IS SPEARHEADING AN EFFORT AGAINST THE JERUSALEM TALKS.
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YOUNG AGREED COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES WERE UNHELPFUL AND HE WOULD SPEAK WITH FALL ON NEXT APPROPRIATE OCCASION.

3. TURNING TO THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS, HERZOG CHARACTERIZED AS FISKY THE PRESENT SYSTEM OF NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE MEDIA. YOUNG NOTED THAT BOTH SIDES USE THE MEDIA TO SPEAK TO THEIR OWN CONSTITUENCIES.

HERZOG CONCURRED OBSERVING THAT PM BEGIN RECEIVED A SHOCK WHEN HE DISCOVERED THAT 40 PERCENT OF LIKUD WAS OPPOSED TO HIS PRESENT COURSE OF ACTION. HERZOG ADDED THAT HE WAS PERPLEXED AT BREAKDOWN OF JERUSALEM TALKS SINCE IT SEEMED CERTAIN SMALL ADVANCE WAS BEING MADE IN THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE. YOUNG REMARKED THAT PERHAPS EGYPT CAN MOVE AHEAD JUST SO FAR PUBLICLY WITHOUT INCLUDING THE PALESTINE QUESTION. HERZOG REPLIED THAT ISRAEL GAVE EGYPT AN OPENING WHEN BEGIN STATED THAT WEST BANK AND GAZA COULD BE SETTLED ON BASIS OF AN FIVE-YEAR LAPSE-TIME. MOVEOVER, BEGIN AGREED WITH BREZINSKI, ACCORDING TO HERZOG, THA PEACE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE AN ON-GOING PROCESS.

4. HERZOG SAID BEGIN HAS GONE FURTHER THAN ANY OTHER ISRAELI LEADER; ARABS SHOULD NOT REPEAT PROCESS OF REJECTING ISRAELI POSITIONS AND THEN AFTER A YEAR COME UP WITH WHAT THEY REJECTED EARLIER. HERZOG CONTINUED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT TOLD BEGIN THAT HE, SADAT, THOUGHT HE WOULD HAVE A PROBLEM EDUCATING THE EGYPTIAN PUBLIC, BUT NOT THE PUBLIC IS LEADING HIM. YOUNG SAID GOE HAS SUCCEEDED IN CREATING MOOD OF PEACE AND IN GENERATING PEACE MOMENTUM, BUT IN ADDITION EGYPT HAS PROBLEMS OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND IS SEEKING PRIVATE SECTOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT. SADAT'S ACTIONS ARE TO A DEGREE ECONOMIC-RELATED AND PRAGMATIC.
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AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 0159

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5. HERZOG CRITICIZED SADAT'S NEGOTIATING TECHNIQUE; WHEN THINGS AREN'T GOING HIS WAY HE CALLS BARBARA WALTERS AND ANNOUNCES HIS POSITIONS IN A PUBLIC INTERVIEW. HIS INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER MAGAZINE HAD UNPLEASANT ANTI-SEMITIC OVERTONES. HE PRESENT HIS OSITIONS AS ULTIMATUMS. YOUNG COMMENTED THAT BOTHS SIDES HAVE TO TAKE STOCK OF THEIR CONSTITUENCIES. ISRAEL'S RIGHT WING IS REASONABLE; EGYPT'S LEFT WING IS FANATIC. SADAT HAVE MOVED AHEAD IN RAPID ORDER; A CERTAIN TIME LAPSE MAY BE SEEN BY SADAT AS NECESSARY BEFORE TAKING FURTHER STEPS.

6. TURNING TO WEST BANK ARAB REACTIONS, HERZOG POINTED OUT THAT RECENT PUBLIC OPINION POLL IN NABLUS INDICATED 90 PERCENT SUPPORT FOR SADAT'S POLICY. HERZOG ADDED THAT WEST BANK ARABS WERE SQUARELY BEHIND EGYPT. HERZOG HOPED THAT SECRETARY VANCE COULD INFLUENCE WHAT SADAT SAYS ON SATURDAY WHEN HE ADDRESSES THE PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY. YOUNG NOTED THAT SADAT WAS ABLE TO CREATE THE PEACE-
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MAKER IMAGE; NOW HE C COUNTERING THAT WITH A MILITANT IMAGE. PERHAPS HE MIGHT ACCEPT AFTER A PERIOD OF TIME WHAT HE WAS REJECTING WHEN HE PULLED OUT OF THE JERUSALEM TALKS.

7. HERZOG NOTED THAT DEFENSE MINISTER WEIZMAN AND SADAT HIT IT OFF PARTICULARLY WELL. WEIZMAN TOLD HERZOG THAT AGREEMENT ON SINAI COULD HAVE BEEN SIGNED WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PROBLEMS OF AIRFIELDS AND THE ARRANGEMENTS FOR SETTLEMENTS AND SHARM EL SHEIKH. HERZOG ALSO NOTED THAT HE HEARD IN ISRAEL THAT AMBASSADOR MEGUID HADNOT BEEN HELPFUL AND HAD TAKEN HARD LINE. HERZOG AGREED WITH YOUNG THAT MEGUID'S PROBLEM WAS THAT OF OTHER MODERATES, HAVING TO COMPENSATE TO APPEAL TO MORE RADICAL VIEWS. MEGUID IS WORRIED ABOUT HOW FAST AND HOW FAR THE PROCESS CAN MOVE. HERZOG COMMENTED THAT HE SUGGESTED TO BEGIN LAST WEEK THAT BEGIN SHOULD PUT TOGETHER BEST POSSIBLE TEAM TO WORK OUT ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS ON THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION. AMBASSADOR LEWIS HAD CONVEYED TO HERZOG THAT THIS WAS MORE OR LESS WHAT THE U.S. HAD BEEN DOING ON ITS OWN.

8. TURNING TO SOUTHERN AFRICA, YOUNG REPLIED TO QUERY FROM HERZOG THAT THERE HAS TO BE SOME MOVEMENT SOON. YOUNG SAID CARVER AND PREM CHAND HAS GONE TO MOZAMBIQUE AND NKOMO HAD REQUESTED A PATRIOTIC FRONT MEETING WITH OWEN AND HIMSELF IN LATE JANUARY. ALSO THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY OF LAUNCHING PROZIMITY TALKS BETWEEN SWAPO AND SOUTH AFRICANS IN NEW YORK WITH THE CONTACT GROUP SERVING AS THE GO-BETWEEN. BOTH AGREED THAT A SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON SOUTHER AFRICAN QUESTIONS WOULD NOT BE HELPFUL AT THIS TIME. DISCUSSION TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON ISREALI RELATIONS WITH WEST AFRICANS COUNTRIES AND CONFIDENTIAL

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INVESTMENT IN NIGERIA.

9. CONJECTURING ON USSR INTENTIONS IN THEMIDDLE EAST, HERZOG SAID THE SOVIETS APPEEARED TO BE DISENCHANTED WITH THE ARABS. USSR WAS FED UP WITH LACK OF LEADERSHIP FROM THE PLO.

10. IN CONCLUDING HERZOG INVITED YOUNG TO A DINNER PARTY IN HONOR OF WEIZMAN ON JANUARY 27 WHEN WEIZMAN WILL BE VISITING NEW YORK. YOUNG SAID HE MIGHT HAVE SCHEDULING COMPLICATIONS BUT WOULD CERTAINLY TRY TO MAKE IT.

YOUNG

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